

**Table 18. Frequencies of selected activity limitations among persons 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997**

Selected characteristic	Very difficult or unable to <sup>1</sup> —										
	All persons 18 years of age and over	All persons 18 years of age and over with activity limitations <sup>2</sup>	Walk a quarter of a mile (about three city blocks)	Stand or be on one's feet for 2 hours	Stoop, bend, or kneel	Climb up 10 steps without resting	Sit for 2 hours	Reach over one's head	Use fingers to grasp or handle small objects	Lift or carry something as heavy as 10 pounds (such as a full bag of groceries)	Push or pull large objects (such as a living room chair)
Number in thousands <sup>3</sup>											
Total . . . . .	195,276	68,374	13,253	15,723	15,877	9,586	6,054	5,084	3,519	9,229	14,842
Sex											
Male . . . . .	93,680	28,333	5,049	5,982	6,186	3,431	2,465	1,891	1,361	2,603	4,622
Female . . . . .	101,596	40,040	8,204	9,741	9,691	6,154	3,589	3,193	2,158	6,625	10,220
Age											
18–44 years . . . . .	108,391	24,622	1,948	2,896	3,024	1,267	1,744	904	717	1,566	2,825
45–64 years . . . . .	54,878	22,817	4,210	5,212	5,497	3,097	2,588	1,883	1,294	2,922	5,226
65–74 years . . . . .	18,170	10,731	2,906	3,290	3,276	2,011	845	932	708	1,969	2,960
75 years and over . . . . .	13,837	10,203	4,188	4,325	4,080	3,211	877	1,365	800	2,772	3,830
Race and ethnicity <sup>4</sup>											
White non-Hispanic . . . . .	146,613	54,043	10,137	12,011	12,297	6,930	4,488	3,817	2,641	6,734	11,137
Black non-Hispanic . . . . .	21,719	7,518	1,973	2,274	2,132	1,727	819	706	490	1,416	2,122
Other non-Hispanic . . . . .	7,677	1,758	209	281	253	137	122	79	67	168	395
Hispanic . . . . .	19,267	5,054	934	1,157	1,195	792	625	482	320	911	1,188
Education <sup>5</sup>											
Less than 12 years of school . . . . .	32,285	16,666	5,885	6,251	6,191	4,516	2,210	2,298	1,404	4,056	5,956
High school graduate/GED <sup>6</sup> recipient . . . . .	50,968	20,391	3,848	4,526	4,658	2,670	1,866	1,417	1,024	2,559	4,347
Some college . . . . .	45,126	15,972	2,189	3,037	3,134	1,525	1,171	819	658	1,660	2,853
Bachelor of Arts or Science degree/graduate or professional degree . . . . .	40,322	10,433	945	1,355	1,420	628	508	363	277	746	1,217
Family income <sup>7</sup>											
Less than \$20,000 . . . . .	46,071	21,934	6,721	7,544	7,273	5,343	2,857	2,685	1,789	4,854	7,194
\$20,000 or more . . . . .	139,852	43,441	5,645	7,218	7,680	3,575	2,854	2,105	1,559	3,713	6,782
\$20,000–\$34,999 . . . . .	34,355	13,647	2,617	3,127	3,166	1,728	1,197	904	689	1,553	2,781
\$35,000–\$54,999 . . . . .	34,985	11,169	1,294	1,709	1,808	788	663	482	385	870	1,646
\$55,000–\$74,999 . . . . .	23,319	6,531	556	758	856	327	350	260	128	428	793
\$75,000 or more . . . . .	28,187	7,217	360	570	743	140	291	175	200	299	586
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>											
Poor . . . . .	19,915	9,078	2,759	3,120	3,002	2,317	1,396	1,253	888	2,152	3,127
Near poor . . . . .	29,968	12,950	3,421	3,855	3,825	2,488	1,492	1,277	857	2,298	3,617
Not poor . . . . .	109,832	35,457	4,401	5,643	6,010	2,670	2,121	1,622	1,207	2,837	5,206
Age and health insurance											
Under age 65 years <sup>9</sup> :											
Private . . . . .	118,256	31,623	2,638	3,874	4,391	1,791	2,180	1,256	1,003	2,146	4,102
Medicaid/other public . . . . .	9,297	4,818	1,602	1,864	1,741	1,288	976	641	454	1,176	1,736
Other coverage . . . . .	4,371	2,275	777	865	774	558	430	312	203	547	854
Uninsured . . . . .	29,884	8,432	1,108	1,462	1,564	706	725	559	342	603	1,313
Age 65 years and over <sup>10</sup> :											
Private . . . . .	22,544	14,366	4,357	4,800	4,648	2,971	937	1,306	827	2,666	4,036
Medicaid and Medicare . . . . .	1,661	1,443	851	820	792	754	240	332	233	730	893
Medicare only . . . . .	6,212	3,951	1,487	1,531	1,476	1,155	434	508	332	1,051	1,432
Other coverage . . . . .	1,170	943	344	408	375	296	83	128	103	253	359
Uninsured . . . . .	214	134	19	22	39	18	9	9	6	21	41
Marital status											
Married . . . . .	114,626	39,003	6,098	7,539	7,937	4,127	3,034	2,305	1,682	4,069	7,141
Widowed . . . . .	13,586	9,394	3,739	3,881	3,642	2,928	972	1,309	787	2,664	3,782
Divorced or separated . . . . .	19,970	8,390	1,906	2,344	2,258	1,470	1,104	808	530	1,405	2,165
Never married . . . . .	36,600	8,402	1,071	1,386	1,423	792	626	401	355	745	1,227
Living with a partner . . . . .	9,775	3,004	413	531	569	251	295	240	148	323	491

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 18. Frequencies of selected activity limitations among persons 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.**

Selected characteristic	Very difficult or unable to <sup>1</sup> —										
	All persons 18 years of age and over	All persons 18 years of age and over with activity limitations <sup>2</sup>	Walk a quarter of a mile (about three city blocks)	Stand or be on one's feet for 2 hours	Stoop, bend, or kneel	Climb up 10 steps without resting	Sit for 2 hours	Reach over one's head	Use fingers to grasp or handle small objects	Lift or carry something as heavy as 10 pounds (such as a full bag of groceries)	Push or pull large objects (such as a living room chair)
Number in thousands <sup>3</sup>											
Place of residence											
Large MSA <sup>11</sup>	89,202	28,066	5,103	6,142	6,039	3,744	2,166	1,966	1,315	3,810	5,975
Small MSA <sup>11</sup>	64,945	23,401	4,452	5,283	5,425	3,164	2,248	1,678	1,203	3,022	4,906
Not in MSA <sup>11</sup>	41,130	16,907	3,698	4,299	4,412	2,678	1,640	1,440	1,001	2,396	3,961
Region											
Northeast	39,518	12,852	2,393	2,775	2,808	1,508	1,007	845	538	1,783	2,713
Midwest	49,249	18,164	3,327	3,957	4,021	2,358	1,398	1,148	801	2,185	3,765
South	69,408	24,527	5,574	6,428	6,424	4,397	2,576	2,122	1,528	3,774	6,027
West	37,101	12,830	1,958	2,563	2,623	1,322	1,072	969	652	1,487	2,336
Sex and age											
Male:											
18–44 years	53,653	10,585	846	1,256	1,440	494	834	386	338	507	959
45–64 years	26,556	9,708	1,712	2,044	2,191	1,226	1,085	729	496	899	1,779
65 years and over	13,471	8,041	2,491	2,682	2,555	1,711	546	776	527	1,197	1,883
Female:											
18–44 years	54,738	14,037	1,102	1,640	1,584	772	909	518	379	1,059	1,866
45–64 years	28,322	13,110	2,498	3,168	3,305	1,872	1,504	1,154	798	2,022	3,447
65 years and over	18,536	12,893	4,604	4,933	4,801	3,510	1,176	1,521	981	3,544	4,907
Race, ethnicity, sex, and age											
White non-Hispanic male:											
18–44 years	38,086	8,060	546	844	1,052	320	623	282	240	326	663
45–64 years	20,911	7,821	1,249	1,458	1,615	788	785	497	386	643	1,290
65 years and over	11,514	6,937	2,121	2,240	2,129	1,344	436	632	379	962	1,540
White non-Hispanic female:											
18–44 years	38,259	10,019	716	1,035	1,070	430	592	357	285	645	1,244
45–64 years	22,161	10,293	1,735	2,374	2,443	1,253	1,065	809	543	1,379	2,459
65 years and over	15,683	10,913	3,771	4,059	3,987	2,795	986	1,240	809	2,778	3,941
Black non-Hispanic male:											
18–44 years	6,195	1,095	157	221	222	69	81	36	28	81	141
45–64 years	2,435	968	303	369	301	271	176	135	55	162	263
65 years and over	1,013	634	243	290	255	245	65	82	89	143	195
Black non-Hispanic female:											
18–44 years	7,447	2,052	228	350	283	203	160	80	37	212	334
45–64 years	3,069	1,634	519	508	544	429	227	194	145	358	582
65 years and over	1,561	1,135	523	536	526	511	111	179	136	461	607
Hispanic male:											
18–44 years	7,104	1,155	127	172	157	106	121	68	69	93	140
45–64 years	2,017	565	106	158	195	110	73	75	37	67	127
65 years and over	695	357	124	137	163	120	46	53	42	84	120
Hispanic female:											
18–44 years	6,360	1,454	131	185	187	115	137	69	43	168	226
45–64 years	2,143	897	187	228	252	159	182	125	93	230	288
65 years and over	949	626	259	277	241	182	66	93	36	269	286

<sup>1</sup>In a series of separate questions, respondents were asked the degree of difficulty they experienced performing various tasks by themselves, and without using any special equipment. The tasks included walking a quarter of a mile (or three city blocks); standing for 2 hours; stooping, bending, or kneeling; climbing 10 steps without resting; sitting for 2 hours; reaching over one's head; using one's fingers to grasp or handle small objects; lifting or carrying a 10-pound object (such as a full bag of groceries); pushing or pulling a large object (such as a living room chair). The response categories consisted of "Not at all difficult", "Only a little difficult", "Somewhat difficult", "Very difficult", or "Can't do at all". For this table, "Very difficult" and "Can't do at all" are combined and presented above; the remaining categories, as well as unknowns, are not shown.

<sup>2</sup>Frequencies of persons with any of the limitations shown in this table are included in column 2.

<sup>3</sup>Unknowns for the variables of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents, nor are they shown in the frequencies (see appendix I for more information). They are, however, included in the "All persons" column (i.e., column 1). Numbers may also be rounded.

<sup>4</sup>"Other non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic persons who identified their race as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. These categories are too small to show separately. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>5</sup>Highest educational attainment is shown only for persons aged 25 years and over.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Persons with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" persons are defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" persons have incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" persons have incomes 200% or greater than the poverty threshold.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among persons under age 65 years, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Persons with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

<sup>10</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among persons aged 65 years and over, those with Medicaid and Medicare coverage are distinguished from those with Medicare only; "Other coverage" includes those with Medicaid only, other forms of public health insurance coverage (such as State-sponsored coverage), military coverage, or other forms of government-sponsored health coverage (in all cases, without Medicare). Persons with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

<sup>11</sup>MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.